

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0950

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG, CF, US
SUBJECT: CONGOLESE MEDIATION OF ANGOLA-ZAIRIAN DIFFERENCES: JUNIOR
VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE, JULY 14

1. SUMMARY: GOCB RECEPTIVE TO USG PRESENTATION. ANGOLAN DEL ARRIVES

IN BRAZZAVILLE FOR JULY 17 TALKS WITH ZAIRIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. AF/C COUNTRY DIRECTOR JUNIOR MET WITH PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO'S
DIRECTOR OF CABINET OTSE-MAWANDZA AT LATTER'S HOME, EVENING JULY 14.
JUNIOR, JOINED BY CHARGE, DESCRIBED LUANDA AND KINSHASA MEETINGS,
ALONE LINES AGREED TALKING POINTS.

3. OTSE-MAWANDZA WAS VERY FORTHCOMING, REITERATING CONGOLESE DESIRE
FOR PEACE IN AREA, AND WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN
ANGOLA AND ZAIRE. HE AGREED THAT BEST PROCESS WAS TO BUILD FRAMEWORK

OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TAKE PRELIMINARY STEPS IN BRAZZAVILLE
MEETINGS. MORE SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS COULD BE TAKEN AT MEETINGS
BETWEEN MOBUTU AND ANGOLANS IN KHARTOUM, DRAWING ON INITIAL AGREEMENT

REACHED HERE. CONGO WOULD BE PREPARED TO FOLLOW THROUGH IF AN
AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON VERIFICATION. OTSE VOLUNTEERED, SPEAKING
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PERSONALLY AND NOT PREJUDGING PRESIDENT YHOMBY'S DECISION: "IF
WE UNDERTAKE A MEDIATION ROLE, WE CANNOT SIMPLY LEAVE THINGS
WITHOUT CHECKING UP ON THE RESULTS."

4. OTSE CONFIRMED INFORMATION WE RECEIVED EARLIER TO EFFECT THAT
AN ANGOLAN DELEGATION ALREADY HAD ARRIVED IN BRAZZAVILLE (AND WERE
IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGOLESE NIGHT OF JULY 14 - WE HAVE LEARNED

SEPARATELY). "THIS SHOWS THEIR GOOD WILL. NOW, WE AWAIT THE ZAIRIANS", SAID OTSE.

5. FYI: ATEMBINA-TE-BOMBO, ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TO CONGO, HAD TOLD US AT FRENCH RECEPTION, PRIOR TO JUNIOR MEETING WITH OTSE, THAT ANGOLAN DEL IS HEADED BY A COMMANDANT, MEMBER OF CC/MPLA, WHO IS AN INSPECTOR GENERAL IN MILITARY. ATEMBINA (UNHAPPILY) SAID HE ANTICIPATES THAT STONE-FACED ADMIRAL REPRESENTING ZAIRE AT JANUARY BRAZZAVILLE TALKS WOULD HEAD ZAIRE DEL, AND THAT MEETINGS WILL BEGIN JULY 17. ATEMBINA OBSERVED THAT YHOMBY-OPANGO'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, DIEUBONNE ITOUA, AND CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA, HAD TRAVELED TO KINSHASA TO MEET WITH MOBUTU, AFTERNOON JULY 14. ATEMBINA WAS CRITICAL OF APPARENT GOCB RUSH TO MEDIATE PRIOR TO KHARTOUM, BLAMING CONGOLESE AND ANGOLANS FOR "SEEKING PUBLICITY". A MORE LIKELY SOURCE OF HIS ANXIETY IS WHAT WE SUSPECT MAY BE ATEMBINA'S PIQUE OVER NOT BEING INCLUDED IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. END FYI.

6. IN CLOSING, OTSE-MAWANDZA TOLD JUNIOR THAT CONGOLESE DELEGATION TO OAU SUMMIT MIGHT BE HEADED BY MCP MEMBER OKONGO, RATHER THAN BY YHOMBY. IN TAKING LEAVE AFTER FRIENDLY SESSION, OTSE CONVEYED CONGO'S APPRECIATION FOR JUNIOR'S VISIT, BRIEFING, AND US INTEREST, WHILE EXPRESSING ONCE AGAIN CONGO'S DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL.

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